

Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0789

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA PFOR OVIP QA

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE

REF: DOHA 0964

SUMMARY: WHILE IN US TO SPEAK BEFORE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION IN SEPT AND AS HEAD OF QATARI DELEGATION TO THAT SESSION AND IMF/IBRD MEETINGS, PRIME CANDIDATE FOR "CROWN PRINCE OF QATAR" SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM, REQUESTS MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE, KISSINGER. EMBASSY BELIEVES MEETING SHOULD BE ARRANGED IF POSSIBLE, AND SECRETARY AVAILABLE.

1. ON MORNING OF AUG 11, 1975 MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM, SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ REQUESTED SUDDEN MEETING WITH CHARGE. SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ INFORMED CHARGE THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SOME TIME DURING HIS STAY IN THE US AS SPEAKER BEFORE UN AND AS HEAD OF QATARI DELEGATION TO UN SPECIAL SESSION AND IMF/IBRD MEETING.

2. I ASKED ABDUL AZIZ IF THERE WAS ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH THE
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SECRETARY SHOULD A MEETING BE POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT

HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A COURTESY CALL ON THE SECRETARY AND DURING THE COURSE OF IT DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, OIL AND FINANCE RELATED PROBLEMS.

3. I EXPLAINED TO ABUL AZIZ THAT I COULD NOT POSSIBLY GUARANTEE A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, BUT WOULD BE MORE THAN WILLING TO FORWARD HIS REQUEST.

4. SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES DURING COURSE OF MEETING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE A REPLY TO THIS REQUEST IN A COUPLE OF DAYS. HE STATED THAT IF THE MEETING IS FORTHCOMING, THE GOQ WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOME PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE MEETING BEFORE SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ DEPARTS DOHA FOR US.

5. SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ US ITINERARY IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

AUG 29-30 NEW YORK (ETA US AUG 29)
AUG 31-SEPT 1 WASHINGTON
SEPT 2-13 NEW YORK (DEPT US SEPT 14)

6. ABDUL AZIZ WILL GIVE SPEECH BEFORE UN SPECIAL SESSION, BUT EXACT DATE OF SPEECH NOT YET KNOWN. HE HAS STATED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH SECRETARY AT ANY TIME PROVIDED THERE IS NO CLASH WITH TIMING OF UN SPEECH AND OPENING SESSION OF IMF/IBRD MEETING.

7. COMMENT: OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT SINCE SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ IS A LIGHTWEIGHT SUBSTANTIVELY, VERY LITTLE WOULD RESULT FROM A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN THIS REGARD. HOWEVER, IN TERMS OF GOOD WILL AND A SIMPLE EXPRESSION OF OUR SINCERE INTEREST IN QATAR AND GULF AREA, A BRIEF MEETING WITH SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ WOULD GO A LONG WAY IN EXPELLING SOME OF GOQ FEARS AND UNCERTAINTIES BUILT UP OVER PAST MONTHS REGARDING US INTEREST IN INTENTIONS IN AREA.

IF THE SECRETARY WILL BE AVAILABLE AND CAN ARRANGE A MEETING WITH SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ, HOWEVER BRIEF, WE BELIEVE
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THAT IN THIS CASE THE GOODWILL THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO US FROM SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE WORTH TEN TIMES MORE TO US THAN CONTENTS OF MEETING ITSELF. WE BELIEVE GOQ IS FOUR SQUARE BEHIND SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ' REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND WILL MISINTERPRET US INTEREST AND INTENTIONS IF REQUEST FOR MEETING IS TURNED DOWN OTHER THAN ON BASIS OF UNAVAILABILITY OF SECRETARY BECAUSE OF MIDDLE

EAST OR SOME OTHER TYPE URGENT MISSION. OF COURSE
IF THIS IS CASE, GOQ WOULD UNDERSTAND AND APPLAUD
SECRETARY'S EFFORTS IN THIS AREA.

8. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST AS GOQ MOST ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE
REPLY IN NEXT FEW DAYS.
YOUNG

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